REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is intended to be a complete response to the official action mailed February 11, 2004 in which claims 1-17 were rejected. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended herein. New claims 18-81 have been added.

In the specification, ¶ 0001, has been amended to update the patent status of application 10/307,126.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,618,992 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,900.

Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. 6,618,992, thereby mooting the rejection.

New Claims

New claims 18-22 which depend from claim 1 have been added. New claim 18 is supported in ¶¶ 0040 and 0060 of the specification. New claim 19 is supported in ¶¶ 0040 and 0060 . New claim 20 is supported in ¶¶ 0056 and 0081. New claim 21 is supported in ¶ 0067. New claim 22 is supported in ¶¶ 0052 and 0061.

New claims 23-27 are similar to claims 18-22, respectively, except they depend from claim 12.

New claims 28-54 are like claims 1-11, 18-22, 12-17 and 23-27, respectively, except in claims 28 and 44, the constriction element is no longer defined as completely surrounding the outer peripheral surface of the base portion, as supported in ¶ 0067 of the specification.
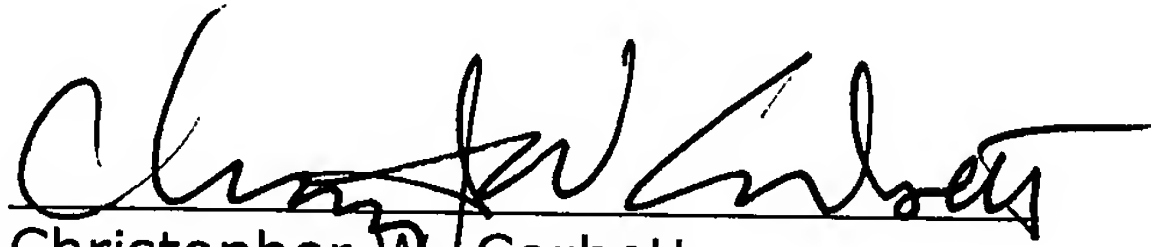
New claims 55-81 are like claims 28-54, respectively, except the constriction element is defined as "constrictioning a portion" of the plurality of folds rather than as "forming a constricted area".

As described in ¶ 0067, the constricted area 44 may extend only partially about the sleeve, thus the constriction element 46, by definition, only constricts a portion of the folds.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in a condition for allowance and requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Corbett,
Reg. No. 36,109
DUNLAP CODDING & ROGERS, P.C.
P.O. Box 16370
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73113
Telephone: 405/607-8600
Facsimile: 405/607-8686

Agent for Applicant